

**City Council of the City of New Castle
Regular Council Meeting at Town Hall
201 Delaware Street – New Castle
Tuesday – August 13, 2013 – 7 p.m.**

Roll Call:

Councilperson Vannucci
Councilperson Petty
Council President Barthel
Councilperson Cochran
Councilperson Megginson

Also present:

Marian Delaney, Finance & Human Resources Manager
Jeff Bergstrom, Building Official & Fire Marshall
Janet Carlin, City Treasurer
Daniel Losco, City Solicitor
Donald Reese, Mayor
Sgt. Rogers, Department of Public Safety

Approval of Minutes by Date: July 9 & July 15

Passed Unanimously

Approval of Treasurer's Report

Janet Carlin reported on the balances of the city's accounts. The total cash on hand in all accounts is \$1,478,160.97. Councilperson Megginson motioned to accept the report and Councilperson Vannucci seconded. The council unanimously accepted the report.

Approval of Staff Reports

President Barthel asked if Mr. Bergstrom or Sgt. Rogers had anything to add to their reports. They did not. The staff reports were accepted as submitted.

Grant Review

Councilperson Cochran reviewed the income from the grants in July. Checks received are:
Separation Day dated 7/16/13 for \$33,000
DEMA dated 7/10/13 for \$150,953.87
DEMA dated 7/24/13 for \$1,506.18

Business from the Floor

John DiMondi asked about the process for passage of the rezoning of the Downtown Gateway and fees for the Board of Adjustment. City Solicitor Losco and Mr. Bergstrom clarified the process and the applicable fees. Mr. DiMondi stated that as an owner of property in the Downtown Gateway, he is being rezoned against his will.

David Stewart, Jr. represented his father who owns property within the Downtown Gateway regarding the rezoning. Mr. Stewart believes limiting use of the property through zoning is unjust and unconstitutional.

Business from the Mayor

The Mayor reported that he and President Barthel had the opportunity to inspect the damage to the dikes from the water on a boat ride with the Governor last week. The trip was very instructive and informative. The Mayor was pleased to report that the bids for the dike repair came in lower than expected and the funds budgeted will cover the anticipated repairs for all the dikes.

Business from the Council President

President Barthel reported that the City Administrator resigned on Friday, August 9th and read the related press release.

President Barthel encouraged all in attendance to attend the community meeting at the Police Station next Monday, August 19 to be updated on the recent burglaries.

Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolutions 2013-22 thru 2013-26 honoring the heroic actions of Brooke D. Hailey, Brian Atkins, Michael M. McClain, Sr., Steve Ballas and Raymond M. Krett, Sr. who came to the aide of their neighbor, William Hailey, following an explosion.

The Motion to approve Resolution No. 2013-22 was made by Councilperson Petty and seconded by Councilperson Megginson.

President Barthel read the resolution.

Resolutions No. 2013-22 through 2013-26 passed unanimously.

President Barthel presented the resolutions.

Continued Business:

1. Third Reading and Motion, Discussion and Vote on the following Ordinances related to establishment of a new Zoning designation and district to be known as the Downtown Gateway (DG):

- Ordinance No. 477 creates the Downtown Gateway (DG) Zoning District, including establishment of permitted uses and dimensional requirements. President Barthel read the ordinance which was previously read on June 5, 2012.

Councilperson Megginson motioned to approve Ordinance No. 477 and Councilperson Cochran seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- Ordinance No. 478 establishes signage regulations for the Downtown Gateway (DG) Zoning District. President Barthel read the ordinance which was previously read on January 18, 2011.

Councilperson Cochran motioned to approve Ordinance No. 478 and Councilperson Megginson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- Ordinance No. 479 establishes parking regulations for the Downtown Gateway (DG) Zoning District. President Barthel read the ordinance which was previously read on January 18, 2011.

Councilperson Petty motioned to approve Ordinance No. 479 and Councilperson Cochran seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Second Reading and Motion, Discussion and Vote on Ordinance No. 490 (formerly noticed as Ordinance No. 489 at First Reading): related to rezoning specific properties to be included in the Downtown Gateway (DG) Zoning District. President Barthel read the ordinance which was previously read on June 5, 2012.

Councilperson Petty motioned to approve Ordinance No. 490 and Councilperson Megginson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

1. Discussion of the Wharf Dance scheduled for September 7, 2013 and jointly sponsored by the New Castle Historical Society and the New Castle Senior Center.

Councilperson Megginson presented the permit application for the event and commented that he has concerns about the requested use of the Banks Building for storage due to the current condition of the building. Mike Connolly, Executive Director of the New Castle Historical Society stated that in previous years they have stored paper goods in the building. There was a discussion about naming the City of New Castle as Additional Insured. Council agreed to approve the permit with the deletion of the request for the use of the Banks Building.

2. Discussion of River Towns Ride and Festival scheduled for Saturday, October 5, 2013 in New Castle, Delaware City and along Route 9.

Linda Ratchford represented the Historic New Castle Alliance and described the event jointly sponsored by the Alliance and Delaware City. A formal application will be filed. Ms. Ratchford requested in-kind donation of city services of banner hanging, traffic control and trash collection to match Delaware City. The event is produced and coordinated by Event Allies that produces the Wilmington Grand Prix. She described the footprint of the festival, road closure needs, and the area that would be covered by a Gathering License for liquor. Councilperson Cochran asked how long Delaware Street would be closed and the need for police to control the traffic. Ms. Ratchford reviewed the specific intersection closures and the safety reasons. Councilperson Megginson asked that the street closures and parking needs be reviewed with the police department. Ms. Ratchford agreed to meet with the police. Councilperson Petty expressed concern about getting the input of the residents of Delaware Street about the closures and making them aware of the closure in advance. Ms. Ratchford replied that the closures were similar to those for other events and that it would be publicized. Mayor Reese has been to some of

the meetings and spoke in support of the event. Councilperson Vannucci asked for clarification on how many blocks of Delaware Street would be closed and expressed concern about the ongoing construction on Route 9. Ms. Ratchford explained that professional bike event organizers have reviewed the route and believe that it is workable, but the council's concerns will be communicated. Council agreed to provide the city services requested.

3. Request from New Castle Police Department for City Council approval for the department's application for the 2013 FCVC (Fund to Combat Violent Crimes) "Combat Violent Crime" Grant Program FY' 14.

Sgt. Rogers reviewed the components of the grant. There is no matching fund requirement. City Council approved.

4. Comments from the floor.

Mayor Reese thanked the police department for their quick response in completing the application for the FCVC grant.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Council met in Executive Session to discuss a Personnel Matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Wurtzel
New Castle City Clerk